

VGIN Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday July 20, 2011

1:00 PM, CESC

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Senator John Watkins	Connie Brennan
	Delegate Richard Anderson	W. Page Cockrell
	James Wilson	Charles Donato
	Chris Knight	Samuel Nixon
	Murali Rao for VDOT	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Senator Mark Obenshain	Jeffrey Anderson
	Delegate Beverly Sherwood	Rick Pevarski
	Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter	Stanford Hovey
	Delegate David Englin	Supervisor John Jenkins
STAFF PRESENT:	Dan Widner, Coordinator	Terry Mayo, Board Assistant
	Jerry Simonoff, ESG Director	John Scrivani
	Steve Marzolf, ISP Director	Dorothy Spears-Dean

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Senator Watkins called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. Senator Watkins addressed the Board and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Senator Watkins called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2011 meeting. Mr. Christopher Knight stated that the Advisory Board has not had a chance to read the Minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup>, as it was not sent out in advance. Mr. Widner stated that it was an oversight not to send the Minutes out for the Advisory Board to read in advance of this meeting. So, the Senator Watkins asked that the approval of the April 20, 2011 Meetings be reviewed at the next Advisory Board Meeting in October. All agreed to delay the review and approval of the April Minutes until October.

## **2. GIS Strategic Plan Progress Report**

Mr. Widner addressed the Advisory Board and noted that the GIS Strategic Plan

Progress Report has not been published on the web-site yet, as he would like to seek the Advisory Board's input prior to doing so.

Mr. Widner informed the Board that he would like to go over the Strategic Plan Progress Report with them, and he would like the Advisory Board to advise him on the Report.

Mr. Widner started with the Executive Summary and reviewed the 6 strategic initiatives in the Strategic Plan which are: (1) Develop and maintain geospatial standards; (2) Oversee the development of a Commonwealth-wide geospatial clearinghouse that connects all levels of government and other VGIN stakeholders; (3) Facilitate geospatial educational opportunities; (4) Provide marketing advocacy and outreach by acting as the primary champion of GIS Virginia; (5) Provide framework basemap data layers to augment the current orthophotography and road centerline data layers; and (6) Identify and develop innovative technical solutions.

Mr. Widner discussed the VGIN Division identified priorities for the Plan. He said that input from the town hall meetings emphasized that there is need for a Geospatial Clearinghouse, with Initiatives 1, 2 and 5 identified as logical steps towards achieving the goals. Mr. Widner said that initiatives 3 and 4 have both shown interest by the Advisory Board to be involved, will require Board leadership and that he would help facilitate with the Board where possible.

Mr. Widner provided an update to the various workgroups that have been formed. The Elevation Workgroup was the first formed due to the arrival of the USGS LiDAR data collection of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay border localities. John Scrivani of VGIN took the lead on the workgroup and that its efforts are considered complete at this time.

Mr. Widner then asked Mr. James Wilson to talk about the Education Workgroup. Mr. Wilson addressed the Board and said the workgroup discussed the importance of the VGIN efforts. One idea suggested by the Board and by the Workgroup was a "Speakers Bureau". More will follow on this topic from this workgroup. Mr. Widner directed the Board's attention to the flyers in their Board packet (Mr. Widner said that all of these flyers will be placed on the VGIN web-site): LiDAR High Resolution Data. This flyer was produced as a collaboration between the Elevation and GIS Education workgroups. Mr. Widner then directed the Advisory Board to the Ortho and the RCL flyers in their Board packet and requested feedback from the Board. Mr. Christopher Knight wanted to know how these flyers were going to be distributed. Mr. Widner said that they are going to be placed on the web-site first and at conferences, etc as handouts. Mr. Murali Rao asked about the utility of the RCL data to be able to anchor other data such as VDOT's Linear Referencing System (LRS). Mr. Widner said they are promoting the use of

the Common Road Centerline, and that VGIN will look to VDOT to take the lead on the LRS. Mr. Charles Donato said that the flyers are very colorful and helpful in promoting the product. Mr. Donato recommended that VGIN include links in the pdf flyers so one can get more information.

Mr. Murali Rao discussed the COVITS conference and how this will be a great place to distribute the flyers. Mr. James Wilson agreed and said that this would be great for education also. Mr. Charles Donato said that he is available for help anyway he can. Ms. Brennan said that we need to develop outreach for people who do not know anything about GIS. Senator Watkins said that VGIN needs to start with the Planning District Commissions. Mr. Donato proposed having a “how to get started” guide for GIS. Mr. Nixon commented that whenever the subject of Google comes up, he tells people to look at the bottom of the map and see that it did not just come out of the sky.” Senator Watkins commented that “vehicle miles traveled” is something that is going to be looked at in the future. Mr. Widner commented that a lot of what he is hearing is an education opportunity. Mr. Rao said he would like to propose a subcommittee on what is already happening, and how to educate people, and he is asking the Chairman for his approval. Senator Watkins said he thought that this would be a great idea.

Mr. Widner thanked everyone for their input and dialog. He returned back to the GIS Clearinghouse, and stated that we now have from the workgroup efforts the high level requirements, use cases and geospatial data standards. Mr. Widner informed the Advisory Board that a RFI was done in July 2011 to understand what technical solutions were available in the marketplace, and to determine some order of magnitude in the cost. Senator Watkins asked about other agencies and collaboration (DEQ, etc.). Senator Watkins thought is that VGIN not necessarily be the keeper of the data, but have the ability to share information (the community be able to get access to the information). Mr. Widner said that is what they are trying to accomplish by giving guidance and making information accessible and available. Senator Watkins is recommending that the Geospatial Clearinghouse Workgroup get with these agencies and let them know how the Clearinghouse will help. Mr. Murali Rao commented that this is a daunting task.

Mr. Widner then talked about the Ongoing Programs such as the VBMP Orthophotography and Road Centerline. Mr. Widner said that these continue to be VGIN’s primary focus.

Mr. Widner gave a summary on the pros and cons of the Strategic Plan efforts to date and said that he would like to get the Advisory Board’s feedback and guidance. Murali

Rao commented that he is pleased at the direction VGIN is going with limited resources, and they are doing a good job. Mr. Nixon asked Mr. Widner a question he thought would benefit the Advisory Board, and that question was “if VGIN had the resources, what would VGIN like to do?” Mr. Widner said the additional resource would allow VGIN to more aggressively pursue the Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Widner stated that the staffing shortage is a problem, with a vacancy going unfilled for over a year, and that it affects how much can be accomplished with the Strategic Plan. Charlie Donato said that coming from the private sector the plan feels and sounds good. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Widner if anything has come up that he had not anticipated. Mr. Widner said only the broadband mapping activity. Senator Watkins asked for other questions and comments, and there were none.

Mr. Widner talked about the priorities for 2011-2012 which include the ongoing programs for VBMP Orthophotography and RCL, as well as the grant funded Broadband Mapping. Mr. Widner said additional priorities have been established, and they are: 1) Development of the next RFP for the 2013/2015 Orthophotography cycle beginning in the fall of 2011 with the RFP released the first half of 2012; 2) A RFP or Statement of Work to be issued for the Clearinghouse development in the Fall of 2011; 3) Establishing the administrative boundaries and/or parcel workgroups; and 4) Continue to establish GIS education, advocacy and outreach in collaboration with the VGIN Advisory Board.

Mr. Widner discussed the VGIN Financial Summary for fiscal year 2010-2011. Mr. Steve Marzolf addressed the Advisory Board and said the bulk of the funding does come from the E911 Fund. Mr. Marzolf reassured Senator Watkins and the VGIN Advisory Board about the funding and said that there is still money coming in. Mr. Marzolf also briefed the VGIN Advisory Board on the recent ISP Audit findings of the Wireless Fund management.

### **3. JULY COORDINATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Widner addressed the Advisory Board, and said that he has discussed the items in the report during the Strategic Plan Progress Report. Mr. Widner asked for questions and there were none.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION**

Senator Watkins asked for new business. There was no new business.

Senator Watkins asked for comments. Mr. Christopher Knights made a comment and said that it is hard to serve on this Advisory Board and offer advice because the staff does such a good job. He said he thinks that the VGIN staff has done an excellent job.

Senator Watkins called for more comments, and there were none. Senator Watkins thanked Dan Widner and his staff for what they have and are doing.

Senator Watkins adjourned the meeting at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Terry D. Mayo**

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**Date**